

Sumter to Appomattox

**The Official Newsletter of the of the American Civil War Round Table
of Australia (New South Wales Chapter)**

Patron: Professor the Hon Bob Carr

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Please visit our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message from Our Chairman

Our last meeting on 18 February 2019 was good fun with Diplomacy being an interesting topic. Notably, there was active discussion with 38 people in the room and the atmosphere of friends getting together. Thank you to John Morrison for organising and facilitating the program.

We actually needed the larger room to enable people to mix around more easily. We may do that in the expectation that the number of people will be similar or more in the future. Please bring along your quirky friends and add to the diversity, strangeness and fun of this unusual group of people.

I mentioned previously that I am often amazed at the incredible depth, detail and breadth of the knowledge of many members of our group. I intend to encourage us to take advantage of this in-house knowledge and expertise as much as possible. Our 8 April meeting will be an opportunity for the cavalry enthusiasts to declare themselves and increase the knowledge and understanding of the rest of us in regard to the horsemen. Phil Shanahan will lead this exploration and what is likely to be another lively discussion. For those of us who are not experts on the subject, our challenge is to probe the walking encyclopedias by questioning as to overarching themes, the overall story and the lessons that history has to teach. The combination of perspectives keeps the fun index in the high range.

I hope to see a large group again on 8 April so that we again have a lively and fun atmosphere. Please bring a friend to make it so.

Dan McIntyre

Our Next Meeting

Monday, April 8, 2019. 6.00pm

The Roseville Club, 64 Pacific Hwy

Topic: Cavalry in the Civil War

At our next meeting in April, we will hear from our long-standing member Philip Shanahan on the subject of Cavalry and the Civil War with emphasis on the evolution of The Union Cavalry in the east.

Prior to the Civil War cavalry had been considered as offensive or "shock" troops. Much of the romanticism of warfare and of battle related to the supposedly gallant cavalry "charge". Development of the rifled musket changed all that; cavalry became far more useful as reconnaissance and screening troops, and for raids or harassing attacks.

Early cavalry commanders, especially from the Confederacy, were colorful and flamboyant. Early Southern cavalry were qualitatively superior to those of the Union, but this changed substantially by the end of the war. It is worth noting also that dash, élan and flamboyance were ultimately no substitute for strategic effectiveness.

Mexican Monday meal specials!

On our **Website** you will always find the date of our next meeting. Our Facebook page is also easily accessed from our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

Happenings

IT HAPPENED IN MARCH

HATCHES AND DISPATCHES

March 6, 1831 - Philip H Sheridan is born in Albany, N.Y.

March 22, 1817 - Braxton Bragg (CSA) is born in Warrenton, N.C.;

March 28, 1818 - Wade Hampton (CSA) is born in Charleston S.C.

COMMAND CHANGES

March 5, 1862 - Pierre G T Beauregard assumes command of the Confederate Army of Miss

March 9, 1864 - Ulysses S Grant is named General-in-Chief of the Army of the United States;

March 11, 1862 - Lincoln removes McClellan from his command as General-in-Chief of the Union armies;

March 17, 1864 - Lieutenant General U S Grant formally assumes command of the armies of the United States.

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

March 9, 1862 - Ironclads CSS *Virginia* and USS *Monitor* engage at Hampton Roads, Va;

March 12, 1864 - Red River campaign begins under command of Nathaniel Banks (USA)

March 16, 1865 - Battle of Averasborough, N.C.

March 19, 1865 - Battle of Bentonville, N.C.;

March 21, 1865 - Last major effort by the Confederates to stop Sherman's march south of Bentonville, N.C.

March 25, 1865 - Grant defeats Lee at Fort Stedman Va.

March 25, 1865 - Union troops begin the siege of Mobile, Alabama;

March 29, 1865 - The beginning of the final Appomattox campaign;

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

March 4, 1861 - Lincoln is inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States;

March 4, 1861 - The "Stars and Bars" is designated as the official Confederate flag;

March 4, 1865 - Lincoln is inaugurated for a second term as President;

March 13, 1863 - Explosion at the Confederate Ordnance Laboratory in Richmond kills or injures 69 people;

March 14, 1863 - Farragut leads his Union flotilla up the Mississippi past Port Hudson, La;

March 26, 1863 - West Virginia voters approve the gradual emancipation of slaves;

March 27, 1865 - President Lincoln meets with Grant, Porter and Sherman aboard the *River Queen* at City point, Va;

March 28, 1865 - Lincoln offers terms of surrender.

This publication is the official newsletter of the New South Wales Chapter of the American Civil War Round Table of Australia. All inquiries regarding the Newsletter should be addressed to the Secretary of the Chapter by telephone on 0411 745 704 or by e-mail at: secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au

IT HAPPENED IN APRIL

HATCHES AND DESPATCHES

April 2, 1865 - Confederate general A P Hill is killed outside Petersburg, Va.;

April 5, 1839 - Robert Smalls (USN), the only African American naval captain during the Civil War is born in Beaufort, S.C.;

April 15, 1865 - President Lincoln dies at 7:22am after being shot the previous night at Ford's Theatre by John Wilkes Booth;

April 26, 1865 - John Wilkes Booth is shot and killed;

April 27, 1822 - Ulysses S Grant is born at Point Pleasant, Ohio.

COMMAND AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

April 15, 1865 - Andrew Johnson sworn in as President after Lincoln's death;

April 22, 1861 - Robert E Lee is named commander of the forces of Virginia;

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

April 1, 1865 - At the Battle of Five Forks, Lee's forces are defeated by the Union army, which now threatens his route of retreat;

April 3, 1865 - Federal troops occupy Richmond and Petersburg;

April 6, 1865 - The last major engagement between the Army of Northern Virginia (Lee) and Army of the Potomac (Grant) occurs at Saylor's Creek, Va.;

April 8, 1864 - Nathaniel Banks' Federals "skedaddle" from Richard Taylor's Confederates at the Battle of Sabine Crossroads, La;

April 11, 1861 - Confederate representatives visit Fort Sumter and demand its surrender

April 12, 1861 - Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor is fired on thus beginning the War;

April 13, 1861 - After 24 hours of bombardment, the Union Force within Fort Sumter is forced to surrender.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

April 2, 1865 - The Confederate government evacuates Richmond;

April 9, 1865 - Confederate General Robert E Lee surrenders to Union General Ulysses S Grant at Appomattox Court House;

April 17, 1861 - Virginia adopts an ordinance of secession;

April 17, 1865 - Joseph E Johnston surrenders to Sherman near Durham Station N.C.;

April 18, 1865 - Johnston and Sherman sign "a memorandum or basis of agreement" calling for an armistice by all armies in the field;

April 19, 1865 - Funeral services held for Lincoln;

April 21, 1865 - The train bearing Lincoln's body leaves Washington for Springfield, Illinois;

April 24, 1865 - President Johnson rejects the terms of agreement of Sherman and Johnston and directs that hostilities must resume if there is no surrender;

April 26, 1865 - General Johnston formally surrenders troops under his command to General Sherman.

Our Last meeting



At our well-attended and convivial February meeting, President, Ian McIntyre, welcomed new members and special guests.

After a short interesting Show-and-Tell, John Morrison, our Program Coordinator, introduced a presentation on the topic of Diplomacy in the Civil War. This considered a number of events surrounding the Confederacy's attempts to gain recognition of its independence (mainly by France and Britain) and the North's energetic attempts to prevent this occurring.

The speaker listed several events:

The first related to King Cotton Diplomacy, where the South embargoed exports of cotton to Britain in the hope of mill closures and economic disruption, thus achieving support for their cause through pressure on the British government. Initially, Britain already had stockpiles so was not inconvenienced but by 1862 real shortages occurred which affected mill workers.

The second event was the Trent Affair of 1861 when the captain of the *USS San Jacinto*, Captain Charles Wilkes, illegally removed two Confederate diplomats bound for Britain from an intercepted British mail ship *RMS Trent*. This resulted in a diplomatic incident which threatened war between the USA and UK, averted by Lincoln ordering the release of the two diplomats.

A third event was the Blockade of Confederate ports, which was an important event in the first year of the war for legal and political reasons. In that time, the Confederacy was able to contract loans and was given belligerent status on the high seas which it hoped would lead to recognition.

The most important factor according to the speaker was that the South failed to follow up its early battle successes which may have convinced Britain and France that it could sustain its future. Lincoln's success at Antietam was the final possibility for Recognition.

By 1864 there had been many Northern victories. Britain was able to utilize its Indian colony and Egypt to provide cotton and the Blockade became more successful.

Other issues discussed were the Laird Rams and Napoleon's misadventures in Mexico, both of which had some impact.

The presentation was followed by a lively, wide-ranging and informative discussion by members of the Roundtable, led by John Morrison.

Snippets

Thanks again to Len Traynor

FAMOUS CIVIL WAR HORSES

Some of the horses ridden by civil war generals became nearly as famous as the generals themselves. Lee's *Traveller*, Grant's *Cincinnati*, and Jackson's *Little Sorrel* are a few of examples. General Grant also had a favourite horse he named *Kangaroo*. Why an American would choose such a name for his horse gives rise to an interesting question.

BROGANS OR BOOTEES?

Soldiers in the Union Army were issued foot wear commonly called brogans, but officially known as Jefferson Davis bootees. Some people were led to believe they were named after Jefferson Davis when he was U.S. Secretary for War in the mid 1850's. However, they were in fact named after Thomas Jefferson, because it was the style of footwear worn by him when he was U.S. President in the early 1800's.

The Union soldier was the first soldier in history to be issued with mass produced footwear that differentiated between the left and right foot.

CONSPICUOUS UNIFORMS

At the outbreak of the civil war a wide variety of uniforms were worn by the thousands of volunteers both North and South. One of the more colourful and unusual was the Scottish dress worn by the 79th New York, whose members were mainly Scottish descent. This regiment known as the "Highlanders" was commanded by Colonel James Cameron, brother of Simon Cameron, the Union secretary of war. Although the members wore highland dress in camp, during their first battle they wore trews. As part of Sherman's brigade at Bull Run they suffered heavy casualties while executing a flank attack, an action in which their Colonel was killed. After their first blooding the regiment decided the Highland dress was too conspicuous and quickly adopted the standard Union blue.

BROKEN LIVES, BROKEN HEARTS

Major General John Reynolds, commanding the 1st Corps, Army of the Potomac, was killed 1st July 1863, the first day's action in the battle of Gettysburg. Until that time, he was the highest-ranking Union officer killed in the war.

Reynolds was secretly engaged to a young beauty from Philadelphia, Katherine Mary Hewitt, but the engagement was kept secret because Katherine was from a devout Roman Catholic family who would strongly disapprove of her engagement to Reynolds, a Protestant. Even Reynolds family were unaware of the engagement.

Devastated by the death of Reynolds, Katherine joined the Sisters of Charity in 1864 with the intention of becoming a Nun, but for reasons not explained, she left the Order in 1868 before taking her final vows. She later moved to California, never married and died in 1902.

Another broken life, broken life...

Major General James Birdseye McPherson, Commander of the Army of the Tennessee, one of the most brilliant senior officers in the Union Army, was killed on the 22nd July 1864 during the Atlanta campaign.

McPherson was engaged to Emily Hoffman from Baltimore, Maryland, who was a member of a family who were strong supporters of the Confederate cause, and they strongly disapproved of her engagement to a Union soldier. McPherson was just about to take leave and return to Baltimore and marry his sweetheart, except that Sherman cancelled the leave due to demands of the Atlanta campaign. Emily learned of her fiancée's death when she overheard a family member expressing glee at the death of the senior Yankee officer. Deep in grief Emily retired to her bedroom and remained there for a year, isolated from her family except for a sister. Emily never recovered from McPherson's death and remained in seclusion for the rest of her life, dying of pneumonia in 1893 or 1895 (both dates have been given).

Yet another ...

The Irish-born naturalised American Major General Patrick Cleburne, a division commander in the Army of the Tennessee, known as the "Stonewall of the West" due to his brilliant military achievements, was killed at the Battle of Franklin on the 30th November 1864 in one of the most stupid and forlorn military attacks of the whole civil war.

Cleburne had been engaged to a young southern beauty Suzanne Tarleton, who was also shattered by her fiancée's death. However, in 1867 she married a classmate of her brother but sadly died of a brain seizure in 1868, at the age of twenty-eight.

The heavy burden of grief weighed heavily on so many people during those turbulent years of 1861-1865.

A COLOURFUL NAME

Galusha Pennypacker 1844-1916 was a man with a very colourful name, and very impressive civil war career, becoming the youngest general in the history of the United States Army. Wounded three times during the course of the war, his performance and gallantry during the second attack on Fort Fisher in January 1865 earned him a Medal of Honour and a promotion to Brigadier-General, all at the young age of 20.

In 1866 when the Regular Army was re-organised and he had recovered from his last wound, he was appointed Colonel of the 16th Regiment of Infantry, also becoming the youngest full Colonel in the history of the U.S. Army. Galusha retired in 1881 after being made a Brevet Major-General. He spent the rest of his life active in Veterans' Affairs, eventually dying at his home in Philadelphia.

STALWART DEFENDER OF FORT SUMTER 1860-1861: MAJOR ROBERT ANDERSON 1805-1871

Born in Kentucky, and a firm supporter of the slavery system, he was nevertheless a strong Union man as

shown by his command of Fort Sumter during the secession crisis in Charleston Harbour. A graduate of West Point in 1825, he served with the artillery rising to the rank of Major. He came under great stress during his command at Sumter, walking a tight line between peace and war until finally forced to surrender on the 14th April 1861.

Weighed down by a sense of failure, he returned North physically and mentally exhausted by the ordeal. Promoted to Brigadier General, he was placed in command of the Department of Kentucky. When his health continued to fail he was relieved of field command and given a desk job carry out administrative duties. Eventually diagnosed "with softening of the brain" he retired in October 1863. Brevetted Major-General for his services at Fort Sumter, and returned to Charleston at war's end and took part in the ceremony at the Fort and re-raised the same flag we were forced to lower exactly four years before.

What was referred to as "softening of the brain" then, would no doubt be known as post-traumatic stress today.

THE MEANING OF P.A.C.S

GENERAL JAMES ARCHER, P.A.C.S. 1817-1864

A veteran of the Mexican War and a lawyer by profession, he holds the reputation of being the first General of the Army of Northern Virginia to be captured after Lee took command in June 1862. He was made a prisoner on the first day at Gettysburg while his brigade was locked in combat with the famous Iron Brigade. Incarcerated at the notorious prison camp Johnson's Island, he was later exchanged. The rigours of his captivity, aggravated by the trying conditions he experienced in the trenches during the siege of Petersburg, caused his health to collapse and he died on the 24th October 1864.

Of the 425 Confederate Generals, only about six were entitled to have the letters C.S.A. after their name. The rest, serving in the volunteer force known as the Provisional Army of the Confederate States, had the initials P.A.C.S.

SPIES

TIMOTHY WEBSTER 1821-1862

Timothy Webster was born in England and moved to the United States at the age of nine. He worked first as a mechanic and later as a policeman in New York. In the early 1850s he became a detective with the Pinkerton Agency which, at the outbreak of the civil war, offered its services to U.S. government. Some agents were sent to serve with General McClellan during his *Peninsula campaign* and in May 1861 Webster was sent South as a spy to gather information for the Union cause.

He travelled extensively through various southern states, gathering much military information. Being of a captivating and charming personality, he ingratiated himself with senior Confederate politicians and Army officers and learnt about plans and troop movements, which he sent North. Eventually he was exposed by two fellow agents who had been captured, and to save their own necks,

divulged Webster's whereabouts and activities. Tried and convicted as a spy, he was sentenced to death. His request for a firing squad was denied, and he was hanged in Richmond on the 21st April 1862. The first attempt failed when the rope broke and he fell to the ground. Despite his protests, he was hoisted to the scaffold a second time. This time the rope held firm and he became the first Union spy to be hanged in the war. The fellow agent who had informed on Webster was so riddled with remorse and guilt over his treachery that, many years later, he committed suicide by leaping from the top of a tall building in New York.

PAULENE CUSHMAN. 1833-1893

One of the more famous female spies during the civil war, she had wanted to become an actress and she used this occupation as a cover for her espionage activities. Falsely expressing southern sympathies, she was expelled from Union lines and accepted by Confederate authorities. Due to her physical beauty and enchanting personality her company was eagerly sort by Confederate officers from whom she gleaned very important information which she passed onto the Union Army. Eventually the Confederate high command became suspicious of her activities, and she was arrested and confined. In a panic she tried an unsuccessful escape bid. On her re-capture she was found in possession of incriminating documents and was tried and found guilty of spying. She was sentenced to be hanged, the sentence being confirmed by General Braxton Bragg himself. The execution was delayed when Paulene fell seriously ill and consequently was left behind when the Confederates had to make a rapid retreat. With her usefulness as a spy coming to an end, she launched on a lecture tour relating her experiences but the public soon lost interest in her. Falling on hard times, she became a drug addict and eventually found work as a cleaner in San Francisco. She suicided in 1893. Even though her government had forgotten her, the members of the local GAR had not, and they arranged to have her buried with full military honours.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN

PHOEBE YATES PEMBER

Phoebe Yates Pember (1823-1913) was born in Charleston, South Carolina to a very wealthy Jewish family. Losing her husband to tuberculosis in early 1861 and after a period of mourning, she was appointed Matron of the Chimborazo Military Hospital in Richmond by George Randolph, Confederate Secretary of War [a family friend]. Chimborazo was the largest military hospital during the civil war if not the world at that time, having a bed capacity for some 3,600 patients and treating 78,000 patients in total. Although she had no nursing experience, Phoebe proved herself a most able administrator. The hospital, located on the heights overlooking the city, was more like a small city with its own farm, dairy and vegetable garden for the welfare of the staff and patients.

After the capture of Richmond by Union forces, she remained with her charges until after the transfer of control to the Federal forces was completed. After the war, Phoebe wrote a book entitled "A Southern Woman's Story", based upon her experiences over two and a half years at Chimborazo. In her book, she relates the suffering of the patients, war time shortages and the resentment from some surgeons due to having a woman in charge.

After the war she spent her final years travelling.

JULIE WARD HOWE 1819-1910

Julie Ward Howe was wife of Samuel Gridley Howe (1819-1876), who was a very strong opponent of slavery and well known for his campaign to improve prison conditions. She was a strong supporter of his policies as well as a tireless worker for women's equality. While she and her husband were touring army camps outside Washington in the early stages of the war, she was inspired to write a poem entitled "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" which first appeared in the "Atlantic Monthly" in February 1862. Later set to music, it became very popular with the soldiers and northern public at large still a great favourite today.

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT 1832-1888

This woman was born in Pennsylvania but raised in Massachusetts and was made famous by her book "Little Women". She served as a nurse at an army hospital in Georgetown during the early days of the Civil War. Her experiences there gave her the material for another one of her famous books "Hospital Sketches" published in 1863. Stricken with a severe illness she was forced to give up nursing and return home, remaining a semi-invalid for the rest of her life.

SAILOR'S DAILY FOOD RATION IN THE UNION NAVY 1861-1865

1lb of salt pork with ½ pint of beans or peas, or
1lb salt beef with ½ lb of flour, 2lbs of dried apples,
or other dried fruit or,
3/4lb of dried meat, 1/2lb of rice, 2 oz of butter, and 2
oz of desiccated potatoes along with 14 oz of biscuit
[hard tack]

¼ oz of tea, or 1 oz of coffee, or cocoa, 2 oz sugar
1 gill [4oz] spirits usually rum or whisky

Issued once weekly:

½ lb pickles; ½ pint of molasses; ½ pint of vinegar
Officers of course had to supply their own rations
and, being better paid, their food was of better
quality.

The spirit ration was not issued to sailors under the age of 21; instead they were paid 5 cents the value of the spirit ration – about 1/8 the daily pay of a landsman [a landsman was a newly-recruited sailor]. The same pay rate was paid to those sailors over the age of 21 who chose to forgo the spirit ration. The U.S. Congress decided to abolish the spirit ration effective from the 14th July 1862, and that ruling continues through to the present day. The Confederate Navy continued with the grog ration for the duration of the war.

Civil War Profile

Thanks to Len Traynor

Dorence Atwater (1845-1910)

Dorence Atwater was born in Connecticut – where he was well educated. Due to his beautiful handwriting and talent with numbers he was working as a clerk when the Civil War commenced. He lied about his age and enlisted in a Union cavalry regiment. Over the next two years he operated as the regiment's scout a most dangerous and important role in warfare. A veteran of many battles he was captured just after the battle of Gettysburg by two Confederates disguised as Union cavalymen.



At first he was incarcerated in Richmond, and later transferred to the notorious prison camp Anderson, which had just opened. Dorence was among the first batch of prisoners to what he referred to as a "hell hole". After a couple of months confined in the stockade, somehow his fine penmanship was discovered, and he was transferred to the office to work alongside the stockade's commander Captain Henry Wirz. Atwater's duties were to compile a list of names of all the Union soldiers who died, and buried in the prison's cemetery, unbeknown to Wirz and for his own later reference he compiled a secret list, an action which would have caused him serious trouble, even execution if discovered by Confederate authorities.



Dorence Atwater memorial in Litchfield, Connecticut

After the war Dorence returned home ill and weakened from the horrors of the camp. He intended to publish a list of the nearly 13,000 prisoners buried at Andersonville so the families would know what had become of their loved ones.

Somehow the U.S. War Department heard of his intentions, and claimed the list belonged to them, and demanded Dorence surrender it to them. He refused, maintained it was his property, the government responded by having him arrested, charged, court-martialed, convicted, fined and imprisoned, and dishonourably discharged. Due to the efforts of the famous Civil War Nurse Clara Barton, who became a lifelong friend, she appealed to President Johnson on his behalf he was eventually pardoned.

After a period of training he was sent to the Seychelles as the US Consul, and in 1871 in the same role to the islands of Tahiti. Due to his excellent efforts to combat various diseases on the island, and assistance in improving the lot of the common people, who all came to love and adore him.

He even married the Queen's sister Princess Moetia a marriage which lasted 35 years until his death. During his time in Tahiti, Dorence traded in pearling, goldmining and steamship trading, becoming a very wealthy man.

On one of his frequent visits back to the U.S. to reunite with his family, in 1910, he collapsed and died in California. Two years later his body was returned to Tahiti, where he was given a Royal funeral, the first and only time such an honour was bestowed upon a non Royal.



Princess Moetia Salmon Atwater

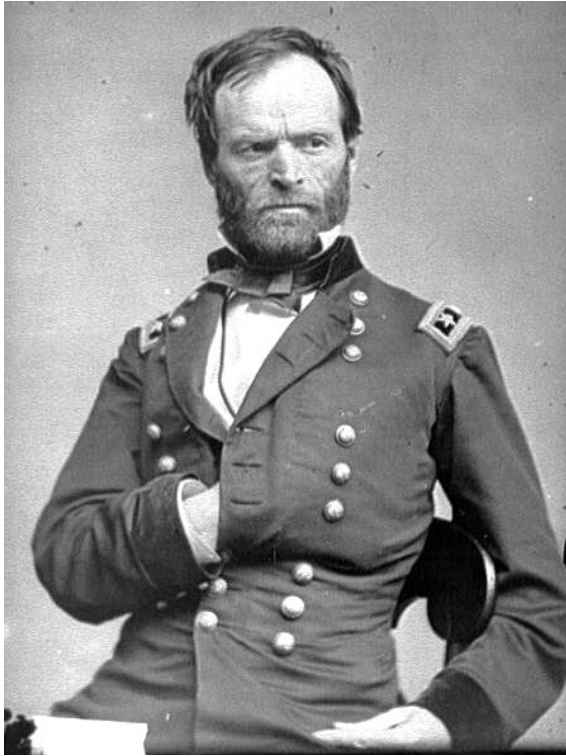
After the war Clara Barton at the behest of the government formed an agency in Washington DC for the purpose of locating or identifying missing Union soldiers. Collaborating with Dorence in this project, and with the help of his list was able to give names to most of the 12,913 Union soldiers buried at Andersonville. All because of a daring young man of twenty years of age, at great risk to himself undertook the important task compiling this valuable and important list of the dead.

The original list survived until 1906, kept in one of Dorence's homes in San Francisco it was destroyed in the terrible earthquake that year.

Civil War Profile

Thanks to Terry Cartwright

William Tecumseh Sherman – The Scourge of the South



Sherman was born in 1820 in Lancaster, Ohio, one of eleven children. His middle name Tecumseh was the result of his father's admiration for the great Shawnee Chief. His father Charles, a successful lawyer who sat on the Ohio Supreme Court, died unexpectedly in 1829, leaving his family in somewhat financial difficulties. Sherman was raised by a family friend, Thomas Ewing, a prominent member of the Whig Party who served as Senator from Ohio and as the First Secretary of the Interior.

From the time Sherman entered the Ewing household he was fortunate to have the backing of a prominent political family. His younger brother John later served as a US senator and cabinet secretary. Senator Ewing secured an appointment to West Point for Sherman when he was only sixteen years old. He graduated in 1840, entered the army as a second lieutenant and saw action in Florida in the Second Seminole War and was later stationed in Georgia and South Carolina. Sherman always regretted not serving in the Mexican-American War while carrying out administrative duties in the captured territory of California.

In 1850 he was promoted to captain and married his foster sister, Ellen Ewing, eventually having eight children together. Their wedding in Washington was attended by President Zachary Taylor and other

political leaders. He resigned his commission in 1853 and between 1853 and 1859 he was manager of a bank in San Francisco and New York. In 1859 he was appointed superintendent of a Louisiana military academy which later became Louisiana State University. In early 1861 as southern states were seceding from the Union he resigned and returned to the north. While in Washington he met with Abraham Lincoln and expressed concern about the north's poor state of readiness but found Lincoln unresponsive. Later in the year on hearing of Lincoln's call for 75,000 three-month volunteers said "Why you might as well attempt to put out the flames of a burning house with a squirt gun" and later he wrote "I still think it is to be a long war – very long – much longer than any politician thinks."

Sherman was commissioned colonel of the 13th US Infantry Regiment effective May 1861 a brigade of three-month volunteers. On 21st July 1861 his regiment went into action at the First Battle of Bull Run where he distinguished himself. On 25th July Lincoln was visiting the troops and promoted him to Brigadier General. He was assigned to serve in Kentucky where he suffered a mental breakdown and was put on leave as unfit for duty. He went back to Lancaster to recuperate. His wife wrote to Sherman's brother John in Washington seeking advice, writing of "that melancholy insanity to which your family is subject." In December 1861 he returned to service and eventually was assigned as commander of the 5th Division under Grant who led the Army of West Tennessee.

At Shiloh, Sherman was caught unprepared by the attack. He rallied his men and conducted an orderly fighting retreat, helping to avert a Union rout. At the end of the first day he met up with Grant in the darkness. In a now famous conversation Sherman said "Well Grant, we've had the devil's own day, haven't we." Grant in his calm way replied "Lick 'em tomorrow though." The following day Sherman performed well in the successful counter attack. He was wounded twice, in the hand and shoulder having three horses shot out from under him. He was praised by Grant and Halleck and promoted to Major General of Volunteers. At Vicksburg his command suffered repulse at Chickasaw Bayou just north of the town but later went on to perform well under Grant's leadership.

In July 1863 Sherman was given rank as Brigadier General in the regular army and command of the Army of the Tennessee. Following the defeat of the Union forces at Chickamauga, Sherman and his troops were ordered to Chattanooga which was being besieged. During the campaign Sherman's command took the wrong hill and when attempting to attack the target of Tunnel Hill were repulsed by Cleburne's division, the best in Bragg's army.

Following Chattanooga, Grant moved to Washington to take overall command of all Union armies. Sherman was appointed to command of all troops in the western theatre of war. So began twelve months that brought Sherman to prominence throughout the

nation and the campaigns that made him famous, viz. The Battle for Atlanta and The March to the Sea. By conducting a lengthy campaign of maneuver against General Joseph Johnston he forced the Confederate army back towards Atlanta. In July 1864 John Bell Hood replaced Johnston and, after losing several battles against Sherman on open ground, was forced to abandon Atlanta. Sherman's success helped ensure Lincoln's presidential re-election in November.

After the November election Sherman began the march of 62,000 men to the Port of Savannah living off the land very well and causing enormous damage to property and infrastructure. By this time Sherman was convinced that the Confederacy could only be defeated by the complete destruction of both its military and civilian ability to wage war. Despite his earlier fondness for the South and its people, his strategy of total war bringing devastation to the region earned Sherman a deep level of hatred. On Sherman's army's march through the Carolinas it was particularly severe on South Carolina, destroying everything of military value as he had done in Georgia. North Carolina was treated more leniently as it was regarded as a reluctant state when it seceded from the Union. Sherman's last significant military clash was a victory at Bentonville. On 26th April 1865 he received Johnston's surrender of all Confederate forces in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida.

Sherman's military legacy was primarily of his command of logistics and his brilliance as a strategist. An influential British military historian and theorist, BH Liddell Hart, rated Sherman as one of the most important strategists in the history of warfare. He credited Sherman with a mastery of manoeuvre in his series of turning movements against Johnston during the Atlanta campaign.

Sherman's advance through Georgia and South Carolina was demonstrated by widespread destruction of civilian supplies and infrastructure. Looting was officially forbidden but it is not known how this order was enforced. The damage done was almost entirely limited to the destruction of property. Accurate figures are not available but the loss of civilian life appears to have been very small. Consuming supplies, wrecking infrastructure and undermining morale were Sherman's goals. An Alabama-born officer on Sherman's staff commented: "It is a terrible thing to consume and destroy the sustenance of thousands of people but if the scorched earth strategy serves to paralyse their husbands and fathers who are fighting it is mercy in the end."

In June 1865 Sherman received his first post-war command that of the Military Division of the Mississippi which encompassed the territories between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains. Initially his efforts were focused on protecting the main wagon trails, such as the Oregon, Bozeman and Santa Fe. Later his main concern was to protect

the construction and operation of the Union Pacific and Kansas Pacific railroads. Sherman was no great lover of the American Indian and in 1868 authorised his subordinate in Missouri, Philip Sheridan, to use the hard-war tactics they had both used in the Civil War.

On 25th July 1865 Congress created the rank of General of the Army for Grant and promoted Sherman to Lieutenant General. On Grant becoming President in 1869, Sherman was appointed Commanding General of the United States Army and elevated to the rank of General of the Army.

"I am a damned sight smarter than Grant. I know more about military history, strategy and grand tactics than he does. I know more about supply, administration and everything else than he does. I'll tell you where he beats me though and where he beats the world. He doesn't give a damn about what the enemy does out of his sight, but he scares me like Hell. I am more nervous than he is. He uses such information as he has according to his best judgement. He issues his orders and does his level best to carry them out without much reference to what is going on about him, and so far, experience seems to have fully justified him." (Sherman)

Much of his time as Commanding General was spent in making the western and plains states safe for settlement. The displacement of Indians was assisted by the growth of railroads and the eradication of the buffalo. Despite his harsh treatment of warring tribes, Sherman spoke out against the unfair way speculators and government agents treated the Indians within the reservations. On 11th April 1880 he addressed a crowd of more than 10,000 at Columbus, Ohio: "There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but boys, it is all hell." In 1945 President Harry Truman would say: "Sherman was wrong. I'm telling you I find peace is hell."

One of Sherman's significant acts as head of the Army was the establishment of what is now the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in 1881. He stepped down as Commanding General on 1st November 1883 and retired on 8th February 1884.

Sherman lived most of the rest of his life in New York. He loved theatre and painting and was in demand as a speaker at dinners and banquets. He was proposed as a Republican candidate for the Presidential election of 1884 but declined as emphatically as possible, saying "I will not accept if nominated and will not serve if elected." The rejection of a candidacy is now referred to as a 'Shermanesque statement'. Sherman's wife Ellen had had predeceased him (in 1888 after 38 years of marriage) when he died of pneumonia on 14th February 1891.

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